

*****Draft Copy*****

Title: A resolution supporting the transfer of aircraft and air defense systems to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Whereas the Ukrainian people have shown great resolve in combating the blind aggression of the Russian Federation following the further invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022;

Whereas the Russian Armed Forces continue to assault the people of Ukraine through indiscriminate aerial attacks;

Whereas the United States Department of Defense has stated that Russia flies “on average 200 sorties per day” in their campaign against Ukraine;

Whereas President Zelensky has continued to request North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members and other nations around the globe to support the transfer of military aircraft and air defense systems to the Ukrainian Armed Forces in order to protect the people of Ukraine;

Whereas the MiG-29 is the main fixed-wing aircraft in the Ukrainian Air Force inventory and it is critical that the Ukrainian Air Force receive aircraft that mirror the capability and operating standard of the MiG-29;

Whereas additional MiG-29s are essential for the Ukrainian Air Force to remain capable of contesting Russian aircraft;

Whereas on March 5, 2022, it was reported that the Polish Government would transfer MiG-29s to Ukraine in exchange for aircraft from the United States;

Whereas on March 6, 2022, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that the transfer of Polish MiG-29s to Ukraine “gets a green light [and that] we’re talking with our Polish friends right now about what we might be able to do to backfill their needs...”;

Whereas on March 8, 2022, the Polish Government stated that Poland would “deploy - immediately and free of charge - all of their M[i]G-29 jets...and place them at the disposal of the Government of the United States” and further stated that “other NATO Allies- owners of M[i]G-29 jets —[should] act in the same vein”;

Whereas on March 9, 2022, the Pentagon stated that the United States “do[es] not support the transfer of additional fighter aircraft to the Ukrainian Air Force at this time, and therefore have

no desire to see them in our custody, either” and further stated that “the transfer of combat aircraft right now could be mistaken, by Mr. Putin and the Russians as an escalatory step”;

Whereas the failure to provide aircraft, such as MiG-29s, and air defense systems to the Ukrainian Armed Forces emboldens Russia and further endangers the people of Ukraine;

Whereas the Biden Administration should support the transfer of aircraft, such as MiG-29s, and air defense systems to include but not limited to Stinger missiles along with more advanced surface-to-air missile systems to Ukraine;

Whereas Congress urges the Biden Administration to meet the air defense needs requested by President Zelensky, to include the transfer of aircraft, such as MiG-29s, and other air defense systems: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

The Senate-

1. Encourages the President of the United States to support the transfer of aircraft, such as MiG-29s, and air defense systems to Ukraine;
2. Supports continued efforts by NATO allies and other nations around the globe to identify additional aviation and air defense capabilities to transfer to Ukrainian Forces; and
3. Stands with President Zelensky and the Ukrainian people in their struggle against Russian aggression.